

rectangular side walls as recited in claim 30, it is simply an envelope with two rectangular walls joined together at their edges.

The device disclosed in Newman is geometrically distinct from the device of claim 30; it does not have any side walls, the edges 104 of the cushions 102 are joined together. Furthermore, Newman does not disclose or suggest that the edges 104 are inflatable. The edges 104 are sealed together and are not capable of being inflated.

The Examiner has noted that the terms “inflatable,” recited in claims 30 and 39, and “configured to inflate the ... wall(s),” recited in claim 39 have not been given patentable weight, asserting that they introduce use limitations (referencing MPEP 2173.05(q)). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The quoted terms refer to properties of the materials being used and do not introduce a process into the claims. Applicant is not prohibited from claiming such properties or structures. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misinterpreted MPEP 2173.05(q).

Accordingly, claim 30 is allowable. Independent claims 39 and 50 recite features substantially similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 30 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 29-36, 40-45 and 51 depend from allowable claims and are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 37, 38, 46 and 47 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Newman. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

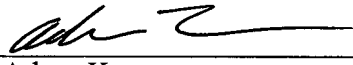
As noted above, Newman does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in independent claims 30 and 39. Accordingly, claims 37, 38, 46 and 47, which depend from allowable claims 30 and 39, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. **578222000100**.

Respectfully submitted,

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